

**IN THE CLAIMS.**

1. (Currently Amended): A method for enhancing the color of gemstone(s), the method comprising: subjecting a combination of a gemstone and at least one finely divided form of a selected treating agent to a selected temperature for a selected period of time under conditions suitable to enhance the color of said gemstone; and

wherein the selected treating agent primarily includes the element copper  
~~enhanced color lies in the color spectrum of light yellow to red.~~

2. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the gemstone is sapphire or topaz.

3. (Currently Amended): The ~~A~~ method according to claim 1, wherein the selected temperature is in the range from about 700° C. up to about 1250° C.

4. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the selected time period is in the range from about 3 hours up to about 600 hours.

5. (Currently Amended): The ~~A~~ method according to claim 1, wherein the gemstone is cleaned prior to being subjected to the conditions suitable to enhance the color of said gemstone.

6. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the element copper  
~~treating agent~~ is in the form of copper metal.

7. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the element copper  
~~treating agent~~ is in the form of copper oxide.

8. (Currently Amended): The ~~A~~ method according to claim 1, wherein subsequent to the treatment in the presence of the treating agent, the gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the range of about 700° C. up to about ~~1200~~ 1250° C. for a time period in the range of about one-quarter hour up to about 100 hours in a reducing environment.

9. (Currently Amended): The ~~A~~ method according to claim 1, wherein subsequent to the treatment in the presence of the treating agent, the gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the range of about 700° C. up to about ~~1000~~ 1250° C. for a time period in the range of about one-quarter hour up to about 100 hours in an oxidizing environment.

10. (Currently Amended): A method for enhancing the color of gemstone(s), the method comprising: subjecting a combination of a gemstone and at least one finely divided form of a selected treating agent to a temperature in the range of about 700° C. up to about ~~1000~~ 1250° C., for a time period in the range of about 3 hours up to about 600 hours, under conditions suitable to enhance the color of the gemstone, and wherein the treating agent ~~consists of~~ primarily includes a finely divided form of the element copper metal or copper oxide; and

~~wherein the gemstone is topaz or sapphire and the enhanced color lies in the color spectrum of light yellow to red.~~

11. (Currently Amended): The A method according to claim ~~8~~, 10 wherein the gemstone is cleaned prior to being subjected to the conditions suitable to enhance the color of said gemstone.

12. (Currently Amended): The A method according to claim ~~1~~, 10 wherein, subsequent to the treatment in the presence of the selected treating agent, said gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the range of about 700° C. up to about ~~1200~~ 1250° C. in a reducing environment for a time period in the range of about one-quarter hour up to about 100 hours.

13. (Currently Amended): The A method according to claim ~~1~~, 10 wherein, subsequent to said treatment in the presence of the treating agent, the gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the range of about 700° C. up to about ~~1000~~ 1250° C. in an oxidizing environment for a time period in the range of about one-quarter hour up to about 100 hours.

14. (Currently Amended): The A method according to claim ~~8~~, 10 wherein the element copper ~~selected treating agent~~ is in the form of copper metal.

15. (Currently Amended): The A method according to claim ~~8~~, 10 wherein the element copper ~~selected treating agent~~ is in the form of copper oxide.

16. (Currently Amended): A color enhanced gemstone comprising a gemstone having a color enhancing agent diffused into ~~the an~~ an outer surface ~~thereof~~, of the gemstone and wherein the gemstone is sapphire or topaz and the enhancing agent is copper metal or

copper oxide.

17. (Currently Amended): The A color enhanced gemstone according to claim 16, wherein said enhanced color lies in the color spectrum of ~~light~~ yellow to red.

18. (Currently Amended): A color enhanced gemstone comprising a gemstone having a surface wherein at least the surface of the gemstone has chemically bonded ~~thereto~~ to a color enhancing agent, and wherein the gemstone is sapphire or topaz and the enhancing agent is copper metal or copper oxide.

19. (Currently Amended): The A color enhanced gemstone according to claim 18, wherein the enhanced color lies in the color spectrum of ~~light~~ yellow to red.

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